



Congressman Bill Thomas

22nd Congressional District, California

U.S. Service Academy Guidelines

(**Note:** The following information is general in nature. For more specific information you are advised to visit each academy's website as well as the catalogs for each academy.)

The U.S. Service Academies are among the most highly respected, quality educational programs in the nation. To be admitted to an academy you must meet stringent academic, physical and medical requirements specified by public law. As a cadet/plebe at the academy you will be provided a fully funded four-year college education. By law, graduates of service academies appointed as commissioned officers in their respective service are required to serve at least five years active duty.

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Each candidate must:

- ❖ be at least 17 years old, but have not passed their 23rd birthday (25 years for U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.)
- ❖ be a citizen of the United States.
- ❖ be unmarried, not pregnant or have any legal obligation to support children or dependents.
- ❖ be a legal resident of the 22nd Congressional District.

II. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Members of Congress, as well as the President, Vice President and U.S. Senators, follow the academic requirements set forth by the academies when making a nomination. Certain requirements are specified by current public law. However, the academies look at the "whole person" when considering admission. Character, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, goals and motivation are key components of a favorable evaluation for admission.

The following are recommended areas of preparation and academic requirements:

College Preparatory Studies

Four Years: English, Mathematics (includes: Algebra, Trigonometry, and Geometry)

Three Years: Social Science (includes: History, Economics and Government)

Two Years: Laboratory Science (includes: Biology, Physics and Chemistry)

Two Years: Foreign Language

Class Rank

Nominees must be in the top 40% of their class. However, the most successful candidates are in the top 10-20% of their class.

Standardized Testing

Although the academies do not establish minimums, candidates who score below the following will normally not be competitive:

Military, Naval and Air Force

SAT 560 Verbal, 600 Math

Merchant Marine

SAT 500 Verbal, 550 Math

III. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP AND MEDICAL FITNESS

Participation and achievement in organized athletics, student body and class government, clubs and class extra-curricular activities, scouting, ROTC, boys/girls state, church or other community related activities demonstrate evidence of leadership potential. The greater the level of involvement/leadership the more points are awarded in your overall admissions evaluation with the academy.

The service academies consider it more valuable to achieve distinction in a specific activity, rather than participation in a number of activities without any evidence of leadership.

If you have a part-time job that affects your level of involvement in school activities, the academies view your working experience as a demonstration of your leadership potential.

You must also be in good physical and mental health and pass a Department of Defense medical examination and have an adequate performance on the Physical Aptitude Exam (PAE). Only one medical exam is needed to meet the requirements of all service academies. You will be scheduled to take this examination at a military or civilian contract facility near your home. Nominees are strongly encouraged to begin this process early, especially if consultation, retesting or corrective action is required. This process may take from six weeks to four months.

If you are a competitive candidate, you will receive instructions for taking the qualifying medical examination directly from:

The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB)
8304 Edgerton Drive, Suite 132
U.S.A.F. Academy, CO 80840-2200
(800) 841-2706 (scheduling)
(719) 333-3562 (status)

IV. COMMUNICATION WITH THE ACADEMIES

The admissions offices will start your candidate file when you complete the Pre-Candidate Questionnaire. This can be done by writing the academies at the addresses listed below. The questionnaire can also be completed electronically and can be found at the websites of each academy. This ideally should be done the **SPRING** of your **junior year** in high school. After you complete the questionnaire, and are considered a competitive candidate, you will receive additional forms to complete from the academy in the mail.

The admissions office of each academy also coordinates a nationwide network of trained Academy Liaison Officers. Once you have made initial contact with the academies, you will be able to receive assistance and guidance throughout your admissions process.

U.S. Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5017
Phone: (410) 293-4361
Website: www.usna.edu

U.S. Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80840
Phone: (800) 443-9266
Website: www.usafa.edu

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024
(800) 732-6267
Website: www.usmma.edu

U.S. Military Academy
299 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0413
Phone: (800) 822-2769
Website: www.usma.edu